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NOTES AND NEWS

T. Ward Clarke contributes a suggestive note on the "Problem of Elemental Life" for *Science,* November 18. The note is inspired by the remarkable researches of Drs. Carrel and Burrows, of the Rockefeller Institute for Medical Research, into the growth of life tissues outside of the animal body. A preliminary notice of the results of these researches appeared in *The Journal of the American Medical Association* for October 15 and 29. We take the following from Dr. Clarke's account: "The experiments consisted in removing bits of tissue from mammals immediately after killing them, the most minute precaution being taken to procure asepsis, inoculating the tissue into a drop of plasmatic medium made from the same animal, sealing it in a hanging drop slide, placing it in a thermostat at 37° C., and observing the changes in the tissue by means of a microscope enclosed in a warm chamber kept at the same temperature. The results of the experiments were uniform. In every case after from one to three days, growth of the specimen was observed. After a period of quiescence, varying according to the nature of the tissue, granulations made their appearance at the margin of the tissue fragment, spindle and polygonal cells were formed and rapidly grew out into the surrounding lymph. The new tissue had many characteristics of the parent material; cartilage produced cartilage; spleen formed cells closely resembling splenic pulp; and, most striking of all, from the surface of bits of kidney grew cell tubules, replicæ of the normal kidney tubes. Once started, the growth went on with wild rapidity, the cells branching out in all directions, and the process continuing for days until the nutritive power of the plasmatic medium was exhausted, and then, when once stopped by inanition, immediately becoming reactivated upon reinoculation into fresh plasma. Furthermore, fragments of the newly formed tissue removed from the parent mass and placed in fresh media continued the same active prolific growth as before their separation, the second generation of cells closely resembling the first. The speed of growth of the tissues varied according to the nature of the material; cartilage began to grow after three days and progressed slowly; peritoneal endothelium and arterial sheath were also slow in starting and sluggish in progress; thyroid and spleen were more active, showing changes in from thirty-six to forty-eight hours; while in the case of kidney, proliferation was seen after twelve hours in the thermostat. Most interesting of all, however, was the behavior of tumor tissue. In their first article the authors report definite growth of a bit of chicken sarcoma after nine hours, and in the second publication a specimen of the same tumor had been actively growing two and one half hours after inoculation. Still another specimen of the same tumor, on being measured twenty-four hours after inoculation, was found to have increased in size fourteen fold, and after forty-eight hours twenty-two fold, the changes being plainly visible to the naked eye. It is impossible at the present time to estimate the value of these observations. From the view point of the biologist the production of active manifest life—for where there is cell proliferation and growth there is manifested an active life process—is of infinite academic interest. From the philosophical standpoint a new factor is added to the great problem of life and death. To the mind of the experimental worker in medical science an entirely new field of possibility is thrown open for the study of cancer. Now that it is possible actually to see tumor cells grow and to study directly the various factors which stimulate or retard that growth, it is not extravagant to say that a gigantic stride has been taken toward the discovery of the cause of cancer and the ultimate goal of its prevention and cure."

PROFESSOR CLAPARÈDE contributes a very appreciative account of Professor James to the September number of the *Archives de Psychologie.* The following tribute to the broad humanity of Professor James indicates how fully his personality was appreciated abroad: "En William James, ce n'est pas seulement un psychologue pénétrant, un profond philosophe que perd l'humanité, c'est un homme—un homme dans l'acception la plus haute, la plus intégrale de ce mot, un homme vivant, vivant dans la pléntitude de son fonctionnement total, n'ayant abdiqué aucune des capacités ou facultés dont chaque homme a le libre usage, et cherchant même à réveiller, pour les mettre en valeur, les énergies potentielles sommeillant dans le tréfonds de notre être. Et cet homme, il est un de ceux qui l'a le mieux comprise, cette humanité, qui en a le plus profondément saisi, et surtout *senti* les aspects infinis, les formes multiples, les aspirations ardentes, quoique souvent secrètes. On ne saurait imaginer esprit plus large, plus tolérant, plus compréhensif, plus dégagé de toute pédanterie, de tout mesquin préjugé de classe ou d'école. Jamais l'opinion reçue n'est venue barrer son regard, voiler son horizon. Sa qualité dominante, d'où les autres découlaient tout naturellement, c'était son sens de la vie, de la réalité, et avant tout de cette réalité, qui est peut-être la seule, qui est du moins la seule à laquelle nous puissions atteindre, la réalité 'vécue,' la réalité humaine. Cette qualité, il l'a appliquée tour à tour à l'analyse psychologique et à sa conception de la vie, à l'étude de la pensée et à celle de l'action."

THE Section of Anthropology and Psychology of the New York Academy of Sciences met on November 28 in conjunction with the New York branch of the American Psychological Association. There was an afternoon session held in the psychological laboratory of Columbia University, and an evening session at the American Museum of Natural History. The following papers were offered and discussed: "Practise Effects in Free Association," F. Lyman Wells; "Drowsiness," H. L. Hollingworth; "Mental Hygiene," Clyde Furst; "Subjectifying the Objective," D. S. Miller; "Secondary Qualities," F. J. E. Woodbridge; "A Forgotten Pragmatist, Ludwig Feuerbach," Robert H. Lowie.